

Illegal deforestation in U.P.

1421. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that illegal deforestation has been carried out in Himalayan region of Uttar Pradesh as a result of which many hilly areas have become bereft of trees;
- (b) whether the Central Government have issued any guidelines to Uttar Pradesh Government to check such illegal deforestation;
- (c) if so, whether these guidelines have been followed; and
- (d) the position in other States regarding such illegal deforestation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) There is no report with the Government that illegal deforestation has been carried out in Himalayan region of Uttar Pradesh as a result of which many hilly areas have become bereft of trees. As per National Forest Policy, 1988 the Central Government issued guidelines to various state governments on June 1, 1990 to involve local communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forest lands. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has issued government resolution in this regard on August 30, 1997, As reported by the state government 197 JFM committees have been constituted and 34,569 ha. of forest area has been covered under Joint Forest Management. There are no reports from other states regarding such illegal deforestation. As per Forest Survey of Indias assessment of 1999, an increase of 3896 sq. kms. of forest cover has been reported as compared to 1997 assessment.

Poaching of Animals in Shimilipal Tiger Reserve

1422. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that hunting of animals in Shimilipal Tiger Reserve is on the increase;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.